Hydro power potential capacity

†142. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the potential of power generation of hydel sector in the country has been estimated to be more than one lakh forty eight thousand megawatt;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the total capacity being utilized for generating power, as on March, 2007;

(c) whether Government has chalked out any policy to promote setting up of power generating units in this sector; and

(d) if so, the financial incentives finalized under this policy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) As per the reassessment studies completed by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) in 1987, the hydroelectric potential of the country, in terms of installed capacity, has been estimated to be about 1,48,700 MW out of which a capacity of 30,873 MW (20.76% of the potential) has already been developed and another 13,446 MW is under implementation.

(c) and (d) The Policy on Hydro Power Development was first announced by the Government of India in 1998. It lays emphasis on basin wise development, evolving consensus on inter state issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplified procedure for transfer of clearances, promoting joint venture arrangements etc. It also lays emphasis on increasing private investment in the power sector through Independent Power Producers (IPPs) and joint ventures. The National Electricity Policy announced in February, 2005 also lays emphasis on the expeditious development of feasible hydro potential in the country.

The Government has also announced a Mega Power Policy to incentivize development of Mega Power Projects. Under this Policy, Inter-State Power Projects of 1000 MW and above for thermal and 500 MW and above for hydro projects, qualify for fiscal concessions/benefits as mentioned below:

(i) Import of capital equipment free of customs duty.

(ii) Deemed export benefits as per the provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy to the domestic suppliers.

(iii) Income Tax holiday regime as per section 80-1A of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Moreover for the projects located in the State of J&K, North-East and Sikkim, the corresponding threshold qualifying limit has been reduce to 700 MW for thermal and 300 MW for hydel projects.

Supply of coal for power plants

†143. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thermal power generation units are not getting the required supply of coal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the gap between demand and supply during 2004-2005, 2005-06 and 2006-07; and

(c) the shortfall in power generation during each of the above years due to required supply of coal not being made?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) During the year 2007-08 (April-October, 2007) coal receipt at the thermal power stations was of the order of 85% of the linkage required for consumption and building the stock upto normative level.

(b) The total coal linkage and receipt at the thermal power stations of power utilities during the last three years was as under:-

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Year	Coal Linkage	Coal Receipt	% Receipt
2004-05	304.24	280.60	92.2
2005-06	317.41	292.63	92.2
2006-07	338.56	303.30	89.6

(c) The generation loss due to shortage of coal during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 by the power stations in the country, was as under:—

2004-05	3588.0 Million Units
2005-06	1653.5 Million Units
2006-07	Nil

Shortage of scientists

†144. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of ban on the recruitment of scientists, acute shortage of scientists is being felt in the country;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for recruitment of scientists and the target regarding recruitment of scientists;

(c) the number of group 'A' and group 'B' (Gazetted) officers at present; and

(d) whether this number is adequate, keeping in view the total number of scientists?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Stimulating the demand for indigenous technology products

145. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the recommendations in the report of the Principal Scientific Advisor, on stimulating the demand for indigenous technology products;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.